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RUEHNO/USMISSION USNATO PRIORITY 1688  
RUCNDT/USMISSION USUN NEW YORK PRIORITY 0093  
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C O N F I D E N T I A L PRAGUE 000171

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SUBJECT: CZECHS WARN OF EU PROBLEMS AHEAD AS A RESULT OF  
THE UN GUANTANAMO REPORT

REF: STATE 22932

Classified By: Acting DCM Michael Dodman for reasons 1.4 (b) and (d)

11. (C) In a February 16 meeting Czech MFA UN Department Director Jan Kara warned A/DCM that he was seeing signs the EU would become more hostile to the United States as a result of the UN Special Rapporteurs Report on Treatment of Detainees at Guantanamo Bay. Reflecting on discussions he had held in Brussels the previous day, Kara said that, although the U.S. Government was clearly actively engaged on the issue in Brussels, EU members were considering taking a harder line than in the past, an approach that would have ramifications at the UN. He said a key element of the EU's discussion on the issue (within unspecified channels) was the alleged refusal of the United States to provide the Rapporteurs with an acceptable level of access to the Guantanamo facility. Kara said that in the coming weeks the MFA would be consulting internally to decide how the GOCR would handle the new information and deal with possible calls for a harder line in Brussels.

12. (C) A/DCM and Poloff countered with Reftel points that the United States had offered extensive access to the Rapporteurs, to a level normally extended to members of the U.S. Congress. Emboffs regretted that the Rapporteurs had declined to see for themselves the detention conditions at Guantanamo, and mentioned that, based on a preview copy of the report given to the United States, the Rapporteurs seemed to have focused only on factual assertions that supported their initial conclusions.

13. (C) Comment: We believe the Czechs could be a moderating force within the EU in the coming weeks. Embassy Prague will continue to provide the Czech MFA with all available information justifying the U.S. position and will continue to promote a more critical approach to the UN report. End comment.  
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